THE

BAYS MISCELLANY,

OR

COLLEY Triumphant:

CONTAINING

- 1. The Petry-Sessions of Poers.
- II. The BATTLE of the Poets, or the Contention for the Laurel; as it is now Acting at the New Theatre in the Hay-Market.
- III. The BATTLE of the Poets. An Heroic Poem. In Two Canto's.
- With the True Characters of the several Poets therein mention'd; and just Reasons why not qualify'd for the LAUREL.
- The Whole design'd as a Specimen of those Gentlemens Abilities, without Prejudice or Partiality.

Written by SCRIBLERUS QUARTUS.

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[Price Six-pence.]

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Carlotte Aradi vill a Aradi va tura Aradi Aradi

EXCOME A SECURE

THE

PETTY-SESSIONS

OF

POETS,

of late Days,
With Long-tails and Bob-tails for Frontlet of Bays?

All strove for the *Profit*, not one for the *Honour*; So scribled, petition'd, and harrass'd the *Donor*.

A Verdict was given in Favour of Bob.

The Word carries Magic, and rithmes well to RoB.

By fly Innuendo I'll mention a few,

Who never were reckon'd among the large Crew.

The first that appear'd, and who led up the Van,
Was a peevish, mishapen'd, diminutive Man: **

A Bard, who by help of * Physician and † Parson,
Went quickly to work, on his Chair set his A-on,
And murder'd old Homer; but of his own head,
Flesh-dy'd with Blood, murder'd, mangled poor

Shake spear, when dead.

Like a Botcher, he knew how to turn an old Coat,
But not make a new one; and just so he wrote.

The Parson, who boasted not much of the Spirit, Asserted his Claim, and said, he had most Merit; That oftner than Proteus he vary'd his Shape, Was Drager, Examiner, Buffoon and Ape.
That he many times brazen'd a manifold Rub, By taking upon him the Tale of a Tub:
He was therefore advised not to sue for the Place, 'Till he first turned Christian, and prov'd he had Grace.

The next was a Syllaba longa, a 'Squire,
An Oil-Merchant once, but a Man of some Fire;
To pourtrait his Gideon's great Stature and Strength,
Made him strut in Heroics sull eight feet in length.
But finding his Claim not supported by any,
He drop'd his Pretensions, and set up his Zany,
As S—t had before done by Doctor D—l—y.

To the Bays then the Zany endeavour'd to climb,
But could not make Bombast to pass for Sublime;
Extravagant Flight, and extravagant Thought,
To a groveling Condition this Icarus brought:
The Doctor for Tales and Epistes so samous,
In Poetry Epic was found Ignoramus.

A Title-page Monger, of all Men the oddest, With Orator H——y, both equally modest, Their Plea did put in; which, for want of a better, Was, that they had once trump'd up a scandalous

Letter: ++

The one was adjudg'd a most impudent Jester, And the other sent down for † Correction to L-7.

A & Bantling of Fortune appear'd in the Rear, Afferted his Title, which feem'd pretty clear; But as he misused Favour shew'd him before, Twas not proper that he should receive any more.

Had I the Disposal, I'd have giv'n the Place
To a promising Youth, who the Frontlet would grace:
As 11 Scipio not one of the Tribe half so fit,
If Judgment, good Sense, and an accurate With
Are Qualifications sufficient to raise
Our Esteem for the Man who does MERIT the Bays.

[†] Gideon, a Poem by A—n H—1, Efq;

* M—t—l.

** An Irish Clergyman,

Dr. S—t's Favourite.

† H-g-r's Letter to

the B. of L—n.

† To the Tune of Now I have

gotten a Wise of my own.

‡ S—ge.

‡‡ Scipio Africanus, a Tragedy by Mr. B-k-ham.

THE

THE

BATTLE

OFTHE

POETS:

ORTHE

Contention for the LAUREL.

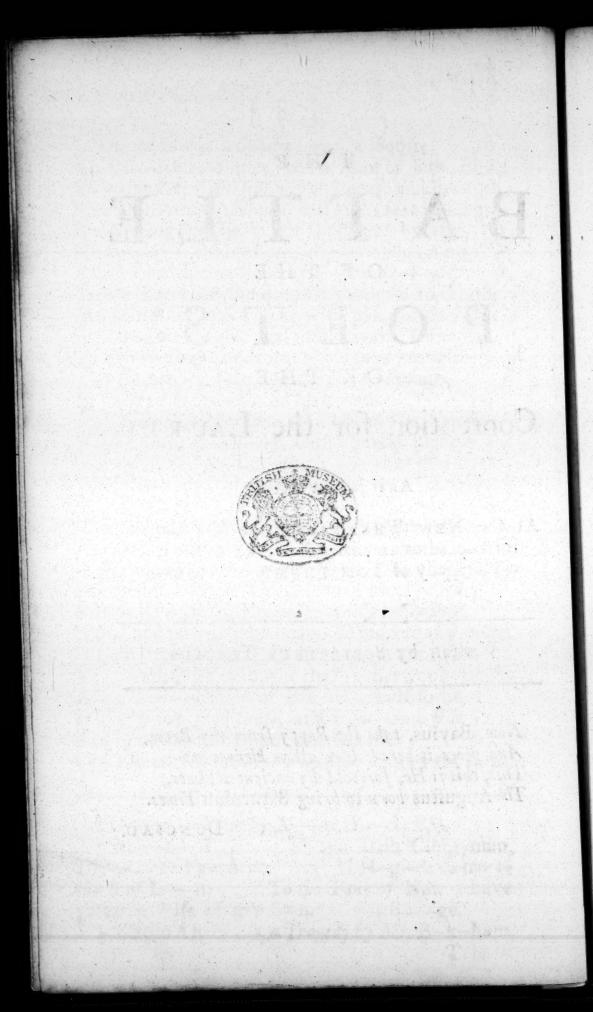
As it is now Acting

At the New THEATRE in the Hay-Market; introduced as an intire New Act to the Comical Tragedy of Tom Thumb.

Written by SCRIBLERUS TERTIUS.

Now, Bavius, take the Poppy from thy Brow, And place it here! here all ye Heroes bow: This, this is He, foretold by ancient Rhimes, Th' Augustus born to bring Saturnian Times.

DUNCIAD.



restrence series.

ANEW

PROLOGUE,

The first Night of the young Company's acting this Season, at the New Theatre in the Hay-Market; in Behalf of those that came there from the other three Play-houses.

Spoke by Mr. ROBERTS.

A S youthful Soldiers, bred to Wars Alarms, Disdain Soft Peace, and love to shine in Arms; Fortune and Fame with glowing Transport view. And where They fly, with lab'ring Steps pur sue. So we, grown weary of inactive Life, Have dar'd to enter this ambitious Strife! Fond, flattering Hope, to our desiring Eyes, Presents your Favours, tempts us now to rife, And bravely strive for such a glorious Prize. Long the bright Ornaments of DRURY's Stage Have been the darling Favourites of the Age; But greedy Fate, and Time's destroying Hand, The generous Purpose of their Souls withstand. Since then, in their declining, Others rife, Blameless we may with Those dispute the Prize. If Their Endeavours patient you attend, The like Indulgence may to Us extend. We hope to please-Let Touth atone each Fault, Nothing at once is to Perfection brought: The Seeds of Judgment, like the Fruit of Trees, Wake into Life, and ripen by Degrees. Toung Cyons, e're they flourith, must take Root; The Spring must usher in the Summer Fruit.

Bid us but hope you will regard our Toil,

And with your Influence bless our barren Soil;

B 2 Whatever

The PROLOGUE.

Whatever new or ancient will improve,
Or still to Innocent Delight may move,
And give New Pleasure for each different Night,
Us to the Task shall rouze, You to attend invite.
Our Souls assiduous shall no Labour spare,
That may instruct us to be worth your Care:
We'll strive, as all Predecessors strove,
Still at Perfection aiming, upwards move,
And be, in Time, we hope, what you may all approve.

Dramatis Personae.

Fopling Fribble, Mr. Woodward. Candidates \ Coment Profund. Mr. Lacy. Sulky Bathos, for the Mr. Ayres. Mr. Roberts. Noctifer. Laurel. Flaile. Mr. Morgan. Lord Truetafte, Mr. Furnival. Judges of the Mr. Jones. Lord Grizzle, Noodle. Contention. Doodle. Officers of the Mr. Havard.
Laurel. Mr. Cross. Dangle, Difmal.

The other Characters as usual in Tom Thumb.



THE

BATTLE of the POETS;

ORTHE

Contention for the LAUREL.

Enter King Arthur, Queen Huncamunca, Lord Noodle, Lord Truetafte, and Lord Doodle.

KING.

Of Princess Huncamunca and Tom
Thumb:

Fetch me my Laureat quickly, let him write On Huncamunca's Marriage with Tom Thumb, Epithalamiums full of Frisk and Fun.

Nood. Alas! my Lord, your noble Laureat's dead.
King. Ha! dead! Is't possible?

Griz. My Liege, 'tis true.

King. Witness, ye Powers, I have not in my Realm One fit to wear the Laurel after him!

Yet, my good Lords, with officious Haste
Summon the Sons of Crambo, 'tis our Will
They should appear, and rhime it for the Bays:
You, my good Lords, shall judge th'ambitious Strife,
And where 'tis most deserv'd, the Wreath bestow.

[Execute King, &c.

Nood. Haste, sly my Lord, and bid the Tribe convene. [To Doodle. Griz. He need not-Even now around the Door A numerous Tribe of Rhimesters waiting stand,

Thick as in fly-blown Mutton Maggots breed,

Or Ravens hov'ring o'er an Horse defunct, They croud the Palace Gate.

New Mushrom-Poets of a Night start up,

With dirty Fingers reaching at the Bays, And bawl their Merit forth in hobling Verse. Tinkers, Sow-gelders, Threshers, Footmen, Pimps,

Old punning Coblers, Taylors infolent,

And fcribling fnotty-nos'd Attorneys Clerks,

Put in their equal Claim _____

Nood. Admit 'em them -

We'll hear these brave Parnassian Peers contend. First, let the senior Bard approach our Ears.

[Doodle goes out, and returns with a Paper.

Dood. My Lord, I cannot get the Senior to approach.

Nood. Why, what is he?

Griz. A punning Cobler! An excellent Toad at writing Pindaricks! He's a great Critick too.

Dood. Yonder he stands without, talking to his gaping Brethren, of the Strength of Genius! the great Hints! the supernatural Emotion! the Soar- etherial Conceptions.

Nood. Heyday! Heyday! Are you fure his

Brain is not touch'd?

Griz. Brain touch'd! Why his Judgment is now

full ripe.

Nood. I fear it will be found like a Medlar, not only ripe, but rotten — But has he fent in any Verses?

Dood. Yes, yes, here they are.

Nood. Read'em, my Lord Truetafte.

[Doodle gives the Paper to Truetaste. True. [After perusing a little] I'll try, but I fear

I shan't do him Justice, they are so very sublime.

[Reads.]
Oh! vast Profundity, hail mighty Power!
Thy Influence shed

On this devoted Head!

An happy Hour

Server?

Stands smiling in the Book of Fate; Ab! let me snatch it e'er too late!

The shady Laurel even now Awaits this ancient Brow;

Which if I lose, I like a Goose,

Or Julien Bittern on the Danube's Shore, Among the Reeds flow-swinging o'er

The rapid Stream, shall hum, or buz, or roar. Nood. Give my Service to him, and tell him, I think he's too sublime for a Laureat; but I'll use my Interest to make him Thunderer at one of the Play-houses.

Griz. Lord, Sir, he does not write for Interest: Reputation, Fame, immortal Fame, is what he

aims at.

True. Then tell him I think he's an extraordinary Person, and that his Verses are most wonderfully wonderful.

[Exit Doodle.

Enter Doodle and Profund.

Nood. Who is this, my Lord?

Prof. May it please your Lordship, I was brought up an Attorney, but finding my Capacity above that Business, and having a Taste for Poetry, I inclined my Study that way: As a Proof of my Learning, I have restored the ancient Reading of fack the Giant-killer, and written a Comment upon Thomas Hickathrift.

Nood. Do you write fluently, Sir? Prof. Sir, in that I dare affirm,

None but myself can be my Parallel.

My envious Brethren think I only plod on in a beaten Road, like a Pack-horse, but they are maliciously mistaken. I write Plays and Operas with the utmost Expedition; and I can't blow my Nose, but out flies an Entertainment.

Nood. Pray, Sir, give us a Specimen of your Poetry. [Profund takes a Paper out of his Pocket. Prof.

Prof. reads. "In Days of Yore full-fam'd was Hickathrift.

"A peerless Wight, of Bags great Store had he. Your modern Publishers and Printers have it so, but at my peril let it stand corrected thus:

" Full tam'd was Hickathrift in Days of Yore,
" Great Store of Gold had be a pearlest Wight

"Great Store of Gold had he, a peerless Wight. As for the first, let all the Commentators in Europe set their Heads together, and ring as many Changes upon it, as were rung upon the Bells in Cornbill, I'll undertake to give em twenty more; and as to the second Line, having great Store of Bags—as I humbly apprehend, is having just nothing; but in my Reading, I change the Container, Bags, for the Contained, Gold; which is absolutely, upon the Word of a Scholiast, much—much better.

Nood. Sir, this may be very learned for what I

know, but your Poetry is what I want.

Prof. Sir, I have a Specimen, which I don't doubt will meet with your Approbation; there's a Song in it, which my finging Back will perform in a high Flight, and such a Flight as Mortal never flew.

Lo! what my Brain prolifick can produce, Full of Surprize and Wonder! in my Verse Heaven, Earth, Air, Hell, Seas, Fire together blend And sympathize—

Now, if you please, I'll call in my Back to fing the Song. [Goes to the Door.

Enter Songstero.

A I R. Flights of Cupids hover round me,
Flights of Bats and Owls hover round me,
Clap your merry, merry sounding Wings;
Flights of Bats and Owls hover round me,
Whilst transported thus a jolly Poet sings;

Laurel spreading,
My Prow shading,
Io! Victoria! this Sonnet brings.

True. Well, 'tis a very good Song, and we'll consider on't—So retire a Moment.

[Exeunt Prof. and Song.

Enter Fopling Fribble.

True. Mr. Fribble, I am glad to see you, we are now proceeding to an Election—pray, Mr. Fribble, if you stand as a Candidate, make a few extempore Lines.

Frib. Lightning rivet me in the Embraces of my Muse eternally if I don't—Allons, my Dear, the Subject!

Nood. We want an Epithalamium on Tom Thumb's Marriage with the Princess Huncamunca.

Frib. Ay, ay, my Dear, I'll do't—hum! let me see!

The most diminutive Tom Thumb
Is a very great Man, gad strike me dumb;
And the fine Princess Huncamunca too,
Shall wed him without any more ado.
The Sun himself shall rise by Break of Day,
To see the Bride and Bridegroom all so gay;
And when that they are wed, and come from Church,
And at the Table sit in easy Chairs—

Griz. Hold, hold, Mr. Fribble, easy Chairs don't rhime to Church.

Frib. Hah! gadso, that's true—let me see—strike me speechless if I can find a Word that will rhime to Church—oh! now Sir!

And placed up on high, on large foint-stools.

Griz. Olud! why foint-stools rhimes to Church worse than easy Chairs.

Frib. Psha! Pox, if you stand so hard for a Rhime, the Devil would—be a Poet Laureat.

Griz. True, Mr. Fribble, pray go on.

Frib. Now, my Dears, as I suppose, the Epithalamium is to be sung, I'll vary the Movement, for the Benefit of the Musick—hold!—hum!

C

well then !—ay, ay, right—

CT

OD

Then round go the Bowls,

To chear our Souls; Our Pipes we will funk a,

For the Honour of great Huncamunca;

And as for Tom Thumb, Say nothing but Mum:

And Winking, And Blinking,

All other Maids he'll despise.
When the Day-light is fled,

And they're going to Bed; When the Princess is smerking, And Tom pulls off his Jerkin-

Now 'tis decent to leave them there; and for the Chorus of all—

To the Tune of, Non e Sivago.

Sing Smerking, And Ferkin, And Ferkin,

And Smerking, &c.
[Noise without.] We'll all come, we will come in.
Nood. What means this Insolence?

Enter Sulky Bathos—Noctifer—and Profund.
Bath. Impatient of the nipping eager Frost,
And willing soon to understand our Doom,
We thus approach.

Noct. Your Ear, my Lord, I crave!

Nood. Speak what thou art.

Not. I whilom, in a Cavern closely pent, Midst Carmen (brawny brave Athletick Chiefs) Where Bub salacious crown'd the slabbet'd Board, And curling Whis of strong Mundungus rise, ConunConundrums Laughter-moving oft have cull'd.
Then in the Orchard's bloomy Shade reclin'd
Of Lovers in a Bower, the Fairies dance,
Descending Showers, the Midnight prowling
Wolves,

Of Star-light Nights, of Moon-shine, Frost, and Heat,

And Owls and Bats full well devis'd to fing.

Pro. Psha! I hope my Owls and Bats fly better than his.

Bath. Rot your blind Bats, pox and confound your Owls:

Dar'st thou such tuneless Dissonance rehearse, And impudently call it Milton's Strain, Where barbarous Nonsense with undaunted Stare Thro' the vast Heap of grim Consusion grins, Dar'st thou.

Thou dangling Under-Spur-leather of Law, Attempt the Bays? Be dumb, ye Slaves, be dumb! Have I so long at Wit and Merit roar'd In thundring Prose, or in Pindarick Hail! Have I so often at the Popeian popt, The Head of Lacrymosa Fuppi lop'd, Detected the Poppysmas too, and now To be confronted by a Pack of Elves! Be gone, and take it for sufficient Praise,

When it is faid, you durft contend with me. Frib. Mad, mad! by the World, insuperably mad.

Pro. Read mine, my Lord—
Noct. I'm recommended by—
Bath. They can't be so good as mineFrib. I wish your Lordship wou'd
peruse.

All four
speak together.

Griz. Be filent all!— On gay extended Wings Ye Infects, in the Sun-shine of a Court Grown warm, you're troublesome; Depart the Room! Go leave us, we'll debate In Private where to place the Dignity.

 C_3

Frib.

Frib. Ah, ah! 'tis mine! I fee 'tis mine!

I have carried the Day.

Nood. You, Mr. Fribble, ftay.

Frib. Brethren, farewell.

Bath. Fare thee well;

Ill Luck awaits me, and ill I must fare.

[Exeunt Bath. Pro. and No&.

[A Noise without.]

True Pray keep back.

Fiail. Clear the Way, and let a Body come in. [Within.

Griz. What buftling Fellow is that?

Flail. Wauns, I will come in, I'se tell you but that. Within.

Enter Flail.

Why, what a Thrusting and Squeezing is here! Odsflesh, if this be coming to Court —

True. Pray, my Lord, upon what Account is

this Fellow introduced?

Flail. Whoy, I'm but a West-country Thresher; but I heard Volk were a making Varses vor a Place at Court, zo I come to zhow my Zel; for an Rhiming be all, I'ze rhime as thick as Hail, I warrant ve.

Griz. Have you ever been acquainted with

Poetry?

Flail. Ah! Laud help your Head, read Poetry, quotha! I've read Patient Grizzle, the Babes i' the Wood, Chevy-Chace, and the Dragon o'Wantley.

Nood. You're learned.

Flail. Learned, oy, oy —— or else I'd ne'er made Varses for our Bell-man this ten Years —
Nay I can crack Jokes in Rhime: At Joan Drake's Christning of her last Child, I made zuch Varses, the old Gossips were ready to die with Laughter:
— Nay, they'd make your Hair stand on End to read'em, they be so vull of Wit.

True. Oh, you set up for a Wit then — that's the worst thing you can do— the Title of a Wit

never carries the Laurel.

Flail. Noa! waunds, I thought they were all Wits— so plaguy zharp, that a Country Fellow cou'd not speak to 'um, but zure they are no cunninger, d'ye see, than other Volk——I'll zoon try my Skill.

As Dolly and Roger together lay Behind a Cock of new-made Hay,

Quoth Roger to Dolly, Ah! let me now! Noa, Roger, quoth she, you shan't I vow.

If ye liken to wed me, ye may play

With me quite thro' the live long Day.

Quo' Hodge, we may play, but how shall we live? My Father, quo' Doll, five Pounds will give.

At this young Roger began to Smerk;

Besides, quo' Doll, I can stitch with a Jerk.

Hoh! hoh! hoh!

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Nood. Oh pox, Mr. Thresher, — you're a meer Wag.

Flail. Oy, oy, you zee Iz'e a very Wag.

True. Well, Mr. — What's your name, with-

draw a little, and you shall be answer'd.

Nood. Well, in my Opinion, Mr. Fribble has carried it from 'em all, and so Lord Grizzle pro-

ceed. [They rise and come to the Front of the Stage, Grizzle leading Fribble.

Griz. As pendent Bushes shew the Sale of Wine, And Pontack's Head denotes good Food within, Thee, from thy Verses, Laureat I pronounce. [To Frib.

Call in the Ministers in solemn Form, Invest his Temples with the glorious Bays.

[Exit Doodle, and Enter Dismal and Dangle with Laurels.

Dism. Are all Materials ready?

Nood.

Nood. Sir, they are.

Dif. With both my Eyes I have the Room furvey'd,

And can't espy the Mug of potent Ale.

Dang. Ale! Sir,—you mean Sack.

Dif. Sir, I said Ale, and mean to be obey'd.

[Enter Servant with a Tankard.

[Dangle sits—Fribble kneels before him.]

Dang. Since to the Stroke of all devouring Fate

Laureats, like other common Scriblers, yield,

And thou art chosen to maintain the Post

Which thy great Predecessor whilom fill'd,

Hail, Son mature! Undaunted Poet, hail!

Thee from the Origin of Things fore-doom'd

To wear the Bays, I ween:

No common Honour waits thy ample Brow; Thou Prince of Poets shall distinguish'd stand, And chaunt in Strains unrival'd Arthur's Praise. Mark well the Oath, which th'art firmly bound

Sacred to hold, and every Part fulfil.

[Fribble lays his Hand upon the Laurel. The OATH.]

When you write Sonnets, fwear no finish'd Lines, Where easy Wit in just Expression shines, Shall once appear.—To be no thieving Afs, (Tho' hard thy Forehead as Corinthian Brass) Profoundly swear, lest what you call your own Be prov'd another's, for your Parts are known. Whene'er you choose an Epigram to write, Swear to be waggish, very unpolite; In Elegy that you will ne'er appear Natural, Easy, Strong, Succinct or Clear; If to the Odes, Pindarick Odes, you foar, To be stark mad, and like a Tempest roar; And when in Satyr you delight to rail, To write with toothless Head, and stingless Tail; In Panegyricks daub your Patron well. In all thy Thoughts and Actions still be fure To To mock the Force of Intrepidity.

" All Nonsense thus of old or modern Date, "Shall in thee center, from thee circulate.

FDangle drinks, and gives the Tankard to Fribble.

Frib. All this I fwear, I'll prove to all Mankind,

None better for this Honour is design'd:

Already they perceive how I can write,

This be my Poison but I'll do thee Right. [Drinks. [The Officers put the Wreath on his Head.]

The SONG.

[Tune of, What a pox wou'd you be at ____

Frib. My Temples around fings. With Laurel thus bound, All you that behold at present a, Shall find I have Wit For my Post very fit, By Nature I seem for it meant a.

II.

Sure no Wretch will dare
With me to compare,
Nor meagre grim Satyrist flout me;
For the highest Degree
Of Quality see
The Paraphonalia about me.

III.

I've a Bronze in my Face,
In my Carriage a Grace,
Which has oft been expos'd to the Town a.
At my Plays, tho' the Croud
Have hist very loud,
Egad they cou'd ne'er his me down a.

For next New year's Day,
I'll show you a Lay
Writ with such Spirit, Force and Energy,
And in such a Strain,
As ne'er flow'd from the Brain
Of the late witty Son of the Clergy.

V.

Since now of good Sack

I shall ne er know the Lack,

The Flights of my Fancy pursuing,

With Surprize you shall view

The Laureat out-do

His wonderful usual OUT-DOING.

With a Fal, &c.

Nood. The grand Procession only now remains, which I will go prepare.

True. Haste and caparison, with wondrous Speed, The Ass that's destin'd to support the Weight Of this our peerless Bard, and round proclaim His Honours in quaint Songs and Roundelays.

[Exeunt in Form. [Mob without, huzzaing! and Flourish of

Trumpets and Musick.

Enter King Arthur, Grizzle, and Courtiers, meeting Lord Noodle, &c. who give the King an Account of Tom Thumb's being swallowed up by the Cow. The King expresses his Concern for this Missortune in the following Speech.

K. Arth. Now, where's my Laureat? Let his

Strains of Joy
To Horror and Confusion all be turn'd;
Let all the World run mad. Is there not Cause?
In what ill-fated Hour was I conceiv'd,
That thus a gloomy Cloud should over-cast
My Dawn of Joy!—

Enter Ghost.

Oh horrid killing Sight!
Start, glaring Eye-balls, from your Sockets start:
Ten thousand Furies with your brandish'd Snakes
Now lash my Soul, and thro' the vast Abyss
Pursue me with Variety of Pain:
Cerberus gape, and swallow me alive.
Promethean Vulturs gnaw my lab'ring Heart,
Let me, Ixion, to thy Wheel be chain'd,

Or,

[25]

Or, Sysiphus, thy ponderous Labour urge, But not behold you grizly Spectre's Face.

[Upon this Grizzle kills the Ghost, and he is thereupon kill'd by one of the Courtiers, and his Death is likewise reveng'd by another, and so on till all the Characters on the Stage are destroyed.]

This now I take to be an unprecedented Incident of *Scriblerus Secundus*; and therefore to correct this Error of my elder Brother's, I have introduced the *Laureat* to conclude the Play with the following Speech.

Enter Fribble.

Ah cruel Death! what Havock hast thou made In the best fairest Part of all Mankind! Since these bright Orbs are blotted from their Spheres,

Nature appears an univerfal Blank.

No Day inconscious of your Worth shall pass;
Sooner shall Fleet-ditch clearer run than Thames,
A Make-weight Candle darken Titan's Beams,
PROFUND write Sense, and BATHOS be a Wit,
And Milton's Strain to NOCTIFER's submit,
E'er I, immortal Peers, your Praise forget.





THE

BATTLE of the POETS;

AN

Heroick POEM.

In Two CANTO'S.

CANTO I.

That fwept fuch Numbers of our Bards away,

The happy Few that home with Conquest came,
The pensive Many that return'd with Shame,
I sing. Indulge, Calliops, my Verse,
While I the Horrors of the War rehearse;
How Poets doubly in their Works were slain,
When the big Volumes cover'd all the Plain;
How little Witlings, like Enthusiasts, fought,
For the same Cause, they knew not why, they
wrote.

First, Goddess, for thou know'st, instruct my Tongue,
To tell the Source whence the Dissention sprung.

Phabus from high beheld, with Patience, long,
The Lust of Int'rest, and the Trade of Song;
He saw the jilting Tricks that Fortune play'd,

Observ'd the partial Jumble Chance had made; How some the Meteors of the Vulgar slew, While greater Merit silently withdrew. Resolv'd no longer such Affronts to bear, That each the Laurels he deserv'd might wear,

Thus,

Thus, calling to his Aid fair Maia's Son, The ever-youthful God of Verse begun.

Fly, Hermes, fly to that distinguish'd Shore, Where Dryden late Apollo's Laurels wore; Thus fays the Delphic God, to all proclaim, That plead the Sanction of a Poet's Name, Long has Confusion ravag'd round the Plain, And Discord rul'd among the Muse's Train; Without Distinction, to the Art's Disgrace, The greater gives the leffer Genius place; Hence who are strenuous to restore their Right, Are thus by Phabus fummon'd to the Fight. His Arms let each advent'rous Chief prepare, And I the God will be in Person there, To fee that all with Justice may submit, By Force of Learning, and by Dint of Wit. To him who longest shall maintain the Field, This very Chaplet on my Brows I yield. May ev'ry Son of Verse my Will obey, On Windsor's Forest to decide the Day.

He spoke, and Hermes, quick at his Command, Convey'd the Message thro' the Muse's Land, All thank'd the God for his Indulgence shows, For all were certain of the Laurel Crown; There's not a Bard but panted for the Day, From Pope and Philips down to Trap and Gay. All view their Forces, and correct each Line, And swear at ev'ry Word, The Chaplet's mine.

Goddess, of Verse supreme, immortal Maid, Lend in the greatest Time of Need thine Aid; O'er all the Labours of my Song preside, And thro' the arduous Task thy Herald guide; With Justice let my Praise, or Censure, be, For ev'ry Poet's Worth is known to thee; And first the Leaders, and their Forces tell, Allies, and Neuters, for thou know'st them well.

First

First on the Plain a mighty General came, In Merit great, but greater far in Fame, In thining Arms advanc'd, and Pope his Name. A pond'rous Helm he wore, adorn'd with Care, And for the Plume Belinda's ravish'd Hair. Arm'd at all Points the Warrior took the Field, With Windfor's Forest painted on his Shield. Next him approach'd, whose Glory shin'd from far, Wesley, and on his Shield the Sex's War. Then march'd in Order, Fenton, Tounge, and Dart, With each a share of Genius, and of Art; Beneath their Arms, vainly fecure of Praile, Translations, Poems, and a Guard of Plays. Three Captains next appear, Trap, Cibber, Gay, Heading a Thousand Witlings of a Day. In warlike Order rang'd, the Chief furvey'd His fighting Sons of Verse, and thus he said. Brothers of Song, and Fellow-Soldiers, hear; We've yet no Foes to dread, nor Cause to sear; Difmay'd perhaps they Battle now decline, And own, without a War, the Chaplet mine. But think not, Friends, I shall engross the Praise, No, let each Chieftain share his Worth of Bays. But if at last ye should the Foe behold, Be wisely valiant, not too rashly bold. Beware of Welfted, in the warring Throng, Wife as Ulyffes, and as Ajax ftrong; Avoid his Arm, nor too presumptuous be, For he's a Victim worthy only me. Or should you Philips in the Battle spy, 'Tis Death to meet him, and 'tis wife to fly. Belinda be the word; and when I nod, Review your Forces, and invoke the God. So spoke the Chief; and soon was heard from far, The noify Promife of a dreadful War; With Shouts, and loud Huzza's, they pierc'd the Sky, And feem'd to speak a hot Engagement nigh.

Hill

Hill usher'd in a party-colour'd Train, In Merit equal to himself, and vain. His brasen Coat of Mail was cover'd through, With Stripes of Silk, each of a various hue; While Sattin Streamers o'er his Helmet play. To emulate the Sun, and paint the Day. Upon his Helmet's Front was Gideon plac'd; And his broad Shield a Round of Titles grac'd. Then for the Fight a motly Train prepare, Refolv'd the Fortunes of their Guide to share; In mimick Armour near their Prince they stand; And Amazonta at her Lord's Right-Hand; With Hundreds more at Distance on the Green; Bards feldom heard of, and as feldom feen. As thus they stood, quick to their Army ran A Messenger from Pope, and thus began:

Thus from our Leader was I bid to fay,
To you who come Spectators of the Day;
To some secure Retreat at distance go,
Nor stop the Passage of the expected Foe,
Where you with Safety may behold from far,

If fuch is your Defire, the coming War.

He spoke and bow'd; then to his Prince return'd, While Hill with Envy, and Resentment, burn'd. Spectators of the Day! Heart stabbing Sound! But Oh! my Sword shall strike a deeper Wound! Rage-giving Words! Spectators of the Day! But this shall do much more than he can say. And then he storms, and wields his Sword in Air, And threatens Pope; but lo! no Pope is there. So have I seen a Bull in angry Mood, Thirsty and raving for a Rival's Blood, Beat with his Hoofs the Ground, and tear the Plain, And, lowing, gore th'impassive Trees in vain.

As full of Anguish all the Soldiers stand, And with Impatience wait their Chief's Command, Revolving Vengeance in their tortur'd Mind, Surpriz'd they see their Destiny behind;

The

The big Resolves, that they had plan'd before. Are fled, and they are now themselves no more. Fearful to fight, and yet asham'd to run, They wait the Dangers that they cannot shun. Welfted to War a youthful Army led, Born on Parnassus, on Parnassus bred; Himself a Godlike Chief, deriv'd from Fove. Whom much Apollo, and the Muses, love. Upon his Helm the Roman Swan appears, And Horace shining thro' a Length of Years. Upon his Shield's the happy Grove below, Where all that fing like him are fure to go. And there Lavinia by her Dream betray'd, And Acon smiling on the ravish'd Maid. Him Beckingham obey'd, from Phæbus forung, And, like Apollo, beardless, fair, and young; His Chief's belov'd, the Muse's early Care, And where he goes, his Guard, the Muse, is there. Next Pitt advanc'd, skill'd in the Charms of Rhyme, Himself the Vida of the present Time. These Amburst join'd, in Song a blooming Youth, A strict Adherer to the Cause of Truth. Him Facob follow'd, with his curious Dame, And in his tragick Muse secure of Fame. Next Mottley came, of Heliconian Birth, Whose greatest Fault is Dissidence of Worth. To these their Chieftain in a Strain begun, That spoke the Prince, Companion, Friend, in One. Friends, and Allies, first let my Thanks be paid To you, who bring me your spontaneous Aid. What may not I presume, when thus I see, Worthies like you neglect the Wreath for me? Well may I foar the Laurel Crown to gain, When such as you affert my Right to reign. Follow to Arms my Chiefs, secure of Fame, And facred be to War Zelinda's Name. He ended thus; then they prepare to go, And cut their Passage to the distant Foc. Hill Hill faw them glitter terrible from far. And trembled at their dazling Gleam of War. With a forc'd Courage to his Men he cry'd, On let us march in Terror-giving Pride; And Amazonta never leave my Side. He spoke, and lo! they met upon the Plain, And Welfted ey'd him with a stern Disdain; To conquer him he left his Chiefs the Fame. And, fmiling, bore away the Captive Dame. In Jacob, Hill a Match unequal found, Nor with his Gideon could maintain his Ground; All his Artillery of Wit he drew. Which at one Line of his to Shatters flew; While Pitt, and Mottley, with the rest engage, And routed Hundreds with a fingle Page. Thus with Success their Arms begun the Day. And thus to nobler Conquests clear'd their way. Mean while the Chief, the brave Virago fent, Safe with a Convoy to his Royal Tent. Scarce had he gave his Orders, but was feen, Pope, and his Army, marching o'er the Green. Forward he sprung to meet th'approaching Foe. Eager his great Antagonist to know; Resolv'd with him fingly to try his Fate, With him of whom Report had spoke so great. The Armies meet, the Word the Leaders give, And all the Signal for the Fight receive. Satyrs, Epistles, Verses to the Fair; Songs, Epigrams, and Plays, are thrown in Air: Translations, Elegies, the Epick Strain, Are made the Sport of Winds, and hide the Plain. Some are made stronger than they were before, And some are forc'd to fall, to rise no more. Cibber, and Gay, upon the Ground are thrown, And all their Labours perish--all their own. One cries aloud upon a noble Peer; The other wishes that his Chief was near.

Relentless Youth, Cibber to Amburst cry'd, The careless Husband's sav'd; but Cibber dy'd. Gay Iwears to Beckingham, but all in vain. He'll ne'er attempt the Tragick Scene again. Flush'd with Success, the youthful Warrior sprung, And thought himself alone a Match for Tounge; Alas! he finds the rash Mistake too late. And by inglorious Flight eludes his Fate; He left, for Fortune to his Flight was kind. Only the Suffrings of Rapin behind. With Zeal transported for the Mantuan Swain, Pitt chac'd his vile Translator o'er the Plain; Refolv'd to right the injur'd Virgil's Wrong. By Trapp so alter'd in the English Song; Tortur'd and mangled, in his wretched Profe. More than Deiphobus by Grecian Foes. Without Remorfe his Men the Caitiff bind, And turn his useless Volumes to the Wind.

Mean while the Chiefs a fingle Combat fought, With the same Spirit and the Care they wrote; A dreadful Conslict they awhile maintain'd; But Pope, at last, with his own Blood was stain'd. When he his Foe impenetrable found, Scarce had he Courage to support his Ground; But since of Arms he had the larger Store, He from his Wounds grew stronger than before.

And now the Sun darted a feeble Ray,
And left a doubtful Field, a doubtful Day;
But yet the Rage of War continued high,
Till thickest Darkness had obscur'd the Sky;
Fach Hero scarce his Adversary sees,
Nor could they well distinguish Men from Trees.
The Chiefs the Signal give the Fight to end,
And thus the Battle, till the Morn, suspend.

CANTO II.

WHILE in their Camp retir'd both Armies

Some panting, others fearful, for the Day. Eusden, a Laurel'd Bard, by Fortune rais'd, By very few been read, by fewer prais'd; From place to place, forlorn and breathless, flies, And offers Bribes immense for strong Allies. In vain he spent the Day, the Night in vain; For all the Laureat, and his Bribes, disdain. With Heart dejected he return'd alone, Upon the Banks of Cham, to make his moan; Refolv'd to spend his future Days in ease, And only toil in Verse himself to please; To fly the noify Candidates of Fame, Nor ever court again fo coy a Dame, But Dennis, lo! the modern Author's Dread, Who captive Wit has oft in Triumph led, The Scourge of Fools, who gives to Worth its due, And always to the Cause of Virtue true, Odious of late to each Pretender grown, But to the Wife his hoary Judgment's known, Forth to the Field with a new Ardor fprung, And in the Winter of his Labours young; Like Diomede, design'd to bear away More Honours by the Night than some by Day. Dauntless he ranges round the Field for Spoil, Nor wants Ulysses to partake his Toil. Silent he goes where Welfted's Army lay, The Terror of their Forces to survey; There by the Blaze of their nocturnal Fires, He views their Arms, and, as he views, admires; But of a sudden on his Brows appear, The Frowns of Wrath, that shew'd the Danger near. Backward he started, and his Sword he drew, And wounded Welfled's Preface thro' and thro'. His His Bosom swell'd with Rage, but all in vain, For ev'ry Wound he gave soon clos'd again. So rash Tydides, mounted in his Carr, Pierc'd with his guilty Spear the God of War; I ut soon the Parts that were divided join, And shew'd the Hero God was all divine.

Thence with a fullen Gloom to Pope he went, And pass'd the Guards to reach the Gen'ral's Tent. And first by Dart the Critic bends his way, By whom the Roman Elegiac lay; But not the same that wrote in Casar's Days, The Stile fo barren, and fo rough the Lays; Not by the foft, polite Tibullus known, So chang'd the whole, it is almost his own. But other Lines his just Attention drew, And charm'd his Senses to a nearer View; He faw what Justice to the Dead was shown; And as he prais'd their Merit, shew'd his own. On Tounge he enter'd, whom he fleeping found, With all his Works in noble Splendor round. Upon his latest Rhymes he drew his Arms, Enrag'd at Trifles that debase the Charms. The rest he left untouch'd, to Merit true, The Beauties many, and the Faults but few. To Fenton's Charms he was excessive kind, One of an hundred Lines he left behind. After he gaz'd awhile on Wesley's Song, Tho' few its Numbers, yet in Value strong, From thence he augur'd an illustrious Fame, And the fure Prospect of a greater Name. Next to their mighty Chief he turn'd his Eye, By whom he saw the deathless Grecian lye; And Shake pear stood, stupend'ous Ruins, by. Oh! mercenary Bard, the Critic cry'd, For lesser Faults than these have Thousands dy'd; Too dire an Instance of what Gold can do, That thy own Country-man must suffer too!

Too weighty are thy Crimes for me to bear.
He fpoke, and left the guilty Volumes there.
But in his other Works, what Beauties shine!
While sweetest Music dwells in ev'ry Line;
These he admir'd, on these he stamp'd his Praise,
And bad them live to brighten future Days.
And now with Safety from their Camp he came,
And cast their Labours in a friendly Flame;
In Triumph from the Field he bends his way,
And leaves to others to decide the Day.
The Battle he forbore, for well he knew,
The Foe was potent, and his Days but sew,
Resolv'd to keep the double Wreath his own,
Nor part the Laurel from the Ivy Crown.

As on he went, he saw approaching nigh
The Form of one that was, or seem'd, a Spy;
He seiz'd him as he trembling stood with Fear,
And thus demands the Cause that brought him
here.

Tell me, rash Youth, for such you feem to me, What can your Bus'ness in the Forest be, Thus arm'd, alone, now scarce the Night is fled, To kill the Living, or to ftrip the Dead? Tell me, for 'tis in vain to hope to fly, Your Name, your Purpose; or expect to die. He spoke; the Youth with Modesty reply'd, Forbid it Gods your Will should be deny'd. By some I'm rank'd among the Sons of Fame, Of noble Birth, and Savage is my Name; Hither I come, by other Motives led, The Living nor to kill, nor strip the Dead; Nor vainly conscious of my Worth I come, Thoughtful to bear Apollo's Laurels home; But, Oh! Report, (forgive a falling Tear, 'Tis much too little for a Loss so dear.) Speaks of a Friend that fell, a Friend to true, That makes the Hazard that I run his due;

His Body I defign'd to take away. That undistinguish'd lies with common Clay. He ended thus, and thus the Critic faid, Grateful young Man, well shall thy Care be paid. Where we so great a Sense of Friendship find, We must conclude it from a noble Mind. But oh! no longer for thy Friend complain; Fate has decreed his Fall; thy Grief's in vain; And for his Loss let this a Comfort be, The World shall foon begin to smile on thee. The present Court shall make Desert its Care. And ev'ry Art shall find a Patron there. He spoke, and soon they saw the Morn from far, And distant Heroes rising to the War; They knew the Danger would attend the ftay, And to the Town they both direct their way. And now the Brave begin to hail the Light, While Cowards, fighing, wish it still was Night. Fresh as the Morn the Chieftains start to Fame. And rouse the Soldier's with their Fair One's Name. Belinda, and Zelinda, dear to Love, Nymphs ever-bles'd in Song, fly round the Grove; Such Magic Forces in their Names are found, They all are eager to revive the Sound; A Sound that frees their tortur'd Minds from Care, And clears their clouded Brows of black Despair; A Sound fo much the plunder'd Warriors charms, It makes them all forget their Loss of Arms; Eas'd of their useless Lumber now they go, At more Advantage to engage the Foe. In dread Array both Armies meet again, And long a fierce and equal War maintain; Till Amburst drives off Fenton from the Field; And Amburst is by Wesley forc'd to yield. Jacob, and Tounge, in Tragic Forces strong, Find in each other a just Match in Song. There Pitt and Dart, engag'd in fingle Fight,

War, by Example, in their Leader's Sight.

And

And now from far three neutral Troops are feen, Pack, Sewell, Tickell, marching o'er the Green; To Pope and Welsted they direct their way; And each a thousand little Wits obey.

The first a boist'rous Chief, in Body strong, A Man of War, and not unbless'd in Song.

The next in Verse had labour'd long in vain, Till he succeeded in the Tragic Strain;

Till from the Grave he rescued Raleigh's Name. And nobly built his own on Raleigh's Fame.

The third by great, but doubtful Honours known, And oft adorn'd with Glories not his own;

So bright, so dazling was the Helm he bore, Fit for a Dryden to have worn before.

As ready for the War the Chiefs appear, All, of a fudden, are unnerv'd with Fear. Philips approach'd high in a Martial Carr. Without Allies, and was himself a War. His Helm was made with more than human Care. And Pindar, with his Theban Lyre, was there. Upon his Shield the deathless Mantuan stands. And, bowing, gives his Pipe to British Hands. There stood Orestes, in his wild Despair; There Glouce ster's Duke, and Gwendolen the Fair. Thus arm'd, upon a thousand Wits he trod; He drives along, and feems of Verse the God. So great the Terror few had Strength to run, And all, who could, the certain Danger shun. Tickell he stop'd, swift flying o'er the Field, And strip'd him of the Arms he could not weild. Addison's Helm among his Arms he spy'd, And thus remorfeless to th' Impostor cry'd. Here ends thy Kingdom, and thy Date of Fame; Robb'd of thy borrow'd Pride, no more a Name; Thus by my Hands shalt thou unpity'd go. Then plung'd him headlong in the Stream below. Welfted and Pope alone his Fury staid,

When thus the God of Verse to Welsted said.

[38]

Oh! Bard belov'd, confess'd Apollo see,
(For all Parnassus is concern'd for thee.)
To thee I come, to warn thee from the Field,
Well tho' you fought, you must the Chaplet yield;
Nor at the Fortune of the Day repine,
For equal Honours shall e're long be thine.
Go, and be certain of Apollo's Aid.
He bow'd, and, with a Sigh, the God obey'd.

Mean while the Muses all their Care engage, To save their Fav'rite from the Warrior's Rage; They sent the lovely Nymphs of Windsor's Plain, Whom he had sung in his immortal Strain, Safe to their Grotto they their Bard convey, While Philips hears the Laurel Crown away.

Thus he a great and easy Conquest gains; And now on Earth the great Apollo reigns.

FINIS.





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